

## 2005 CONNECTICUT CHARTER SCHOOLS

<i>Charter School</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>2005 -06 Student Enrollment</i>	<i>2005 -06 Grade Levels</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Founding Coalition</i>
<b>Amistad Academy</b>	New Haven	300	5-8	Matt Taylor, Executive Director Amistad Academy 407 James Street New Haven, CT 06513 Tel: (203) 773-0390 Fax: (203) 773-0364 Email: <a href="mailto:matttaylor@amistadacademy.org">matttaylor@amistadacademy.org</a>	Teachers Parents Community Activists Civic & Business Leaders Attorneys Scholars Students
State Charter School Opened Fall 1999					

The mission of Amistad Academy is two-fold: to challenge our students with a rigorous academic program and to teach them to act as effective public citizens. Our high-expectations educational model includes a challenging core curriculum, ongoing use of diagnostic assessments, an extended school day and year, a performance-based system for promotion, individualized learning plans, parent contracts, and a high-standards, professional environment for teachers. Students are citizens and leaders of their own micro-society, complete with a student-run General Assembly, bank, micro-businesses, courts, and newspaper. The Academy is a strong, values-driven school community where every member is respected and expected to contribute to the community and to their city.

<b>Bridge Academy</b>	Bridgeport	180	9-12	Timothy Dutton, Director Bridge Academy P.O. Box 2267 Bridgeport, CT 06608 Tel: (203) 336-9999 Fax: (203) 336-9852 Email: <a href="mailto:bridgeacademy@yahoo.com">bridgeacademy@yahoo.com</a>	Teachers
State Charter School Opened in Fall 1997					

The Bridge Academy provides a college preparatory curriculum designed to overcome the problems found in the inner city. The goals are met through parental involvement, a mentor program with professionals from the Bridgeport business community, an introduction to the world outside of Bridgeport that includes the arts, and small enrollment that fosters a sense of community and self-respect.

<b>Common Ground High School</b>	New Haven	135	9-12	Oliver Barton, Executive Director Common Ground High School 358 Springside Avenue New Haven, CT 06515 Tel: (203) 389-4333 Fax: (203) 389-7458 Email: <a href="mailto:obarton@nhep.com">obarton@nhep.com</a>	Teachers Community Organizations Higher Ed Institutions Others
State Charter School Opened in Fall 1997					

Common Ground High School is shaped by an ecological framework derived from the basic premise of ecology: *All living things and non-living things are connected and interdependent*. This framework guides the interdisciplinary curriculum. The school uses a farm and forest site in the city as the ideal context for studying connections in the community, traditional academic disciplines, and the natural environment that sustains them. Common Ground emphasizes team-taught, interdisciplinary courses promoting active, performance-based learning. Students are expected to strive for ecological literacy, academic excellence, strong character, and commitment to community. An after-school program and opportunities for involvement by and with the wider community are also made available.

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<b>Elm City College Preparatory School</b>	New Haven	250	K-2, 5-6	Marc Michaelson, Middle School Director Dale Chu, Elementary School Director Elm City College Preparatory School 240 Greene Street New Haven, CT 06511 (203) 498-0702 phone (203) 498-0712 fax	Teachers Business Leaders Community Activist Higher Ed Institutions
State Charter School Opened in Fall 2004					

Elm City College Preparatory School will strengthen the academic and character skills needed for all students to excel in the top tier of high schools and colleges, to achieve success in a competitive world, and to serve as the next generation of leaders in their communities. Students will become critical thinkers and creative problem-solvers. They will learn to work effectively in teams and develop a sense of social responsibility.

<b>Explorations</b>	Winsted	81	10-12	Gail Srebnik, Executive Director Explorations 71 Spencer Street Winsted, CT 06098 Tel: (860) 738-9070 Fax: (860) 738-9092 Email: explorations.02@snet.net	Teachers
State Charter School Opened in Fall 1997					

The mission of the Explorations charter school is to cultivate a positive attitude towards life-long learning in an experiential, non-traditional educational setting. Students participate in experiential educational activities such as career exploration and adventure education, in addition to their individual course work. Supportive experiential activities are emphasized; tutoring and counseling are provided regularly; and students are encouraged to participate in a partnership to earn tuition-free community college credit while attending high school. Students must be present 90 percent of the time and pass 80 percent of their course work to participate. Explorations adheres to its strict attendance, admissions and academic contracts.

<b>Highville Mustard Seed Charter School</b>	Hamden/ New Haven	300	PreK-8	Lyndon Pitter, Executive Director Highville Mustard Seed Charter School 130 Leederhill Drive Hamden, CT 06517 Tel: (203) 287-0528 Fax: (203) 287-0693 Email: highville@aol.com	Parents Business Community Community Organizations Higher Ed Institutions Others
State Charter School Opened in Fall 1998					

The Highville Mustard Seed Charter School provides the Newhallville (New Haven) and the Highwood (Hamden) communities with a Pre K-8 school with a global studies curriculum. The school incorporates the arts and foreign language as a means to teach the basic skills as well as the Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS). The Highville School is developed in partnership with three area colleges and seeks to serve as a Professional Development Model School. The school serves as a center for cultural, health, athletic and educational programs and workshops for the community.

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<b>Integrated Day Charter School</b>	Norwich	300	PK-8	Rosemarie Rose, Director Integrated Day Charter School 68 Thermos Avenue Norwich, CT 06360 Tel: (860) 892-1900 Fax: (860) 892-1902 Email: <a href="mailto:roser@idcs.org">roser@idcs.org</a>	Parents Teachers Higher Ed Institutions
State Charter School Opened in Fall 1997					

The Integrated Day program is an alternative program which adheres to a developmental approach. The teaching methods used differ dramatically from those used in the conventional classroom. The underlying philosophy of the program recognizes that to be actively involved and truly engaged, a learner must have input into both the content of the learning and the process by which the knowledge is acquired. Specific areas of concentration include individual research, parental involvement, social curriculum, multi-age grouping, personal goal setting and assessment, sense of community and an extended schedule.

<b>Interdistrict School for Arts and Communications</b>	New London	200	6-8	Ruth Cole-Chu, Director Interdistrict School for Arts and Communications, Inc. (ISAAC) 190 Governor Winthrop Blvd. New London, CT 06320 Tel: (860) 447-1003 Fax: (860) 447-0470 Email: <a href="mailto:Isaac@snet.net">Isaac@snet.net</a>	Parents Educators
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The Interdistrict School for the Arts and Communications (ISAAC) is a regional center for interdisciplinary learning. ISAAC's holistic approach to education features an academically rigorous curriculum whose various disciplines are integrated through the arts and modern communication skills. The curriculum supports a learning community that is both multicultural and multilingual, based on a framework of knowledge, skills and awareness. With its small and diverse student body, it strives to be a model for reduction of racial isolation.

<b>Jumoke Academy</b>	Hartford	300	K-6	Michael Sharpe, Director Jumoke Academy 250 Blue Hills Ave. Hartford, CT 06112 Tel: (860) 527-0575 Fax: (860) 525-7758 Email: <a href="mailto:jumokeacademy@aol.com">jumokeacademy@aol.com</a>	Parents Teachers Higher Ed Institutions Others
State Charter School Opened in Fall 1997					

Jumoke Academy's basic goal is to prepare children to compete in the global marketplace through sound basic education founded on early intervention, parental involvement and neighborhood and cultural identity. It integrates the community, families and university settings. Among the school's objectives are teaching all children a foreign language, encouraging strong parental involvement, and helping students to achieve mastery of basic skills, technology and arts literacy.

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<b>New Beginnings Family Academy</b>	Bridgeport	250	K-6	Tania Kelley, Director New Beginnings Family Academy 510 Barnum Avenue, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Bridgeport, CT 06608 Tel: (203) 384-2897 Fax: (203) 384-2898 Email: tkelley@nbfacademy.org	Teachers
State Charter School Opened in Fall 2002					

New Beginnings Family Academy (NBFA) provides a challenging academic experience in a disciplined yet loving, safe and nurturing environment. The school's holistic approach to education encompasses the child, the family and the surrounding community. Hands-on science and math are taught with innovation and practical application. The core curriculum emphasizes early literacy with fluency and comprehension. Character education, cultural programming and recreational activities balance the rigor of the academic schedule. NBFA offers an extended day and an extended year program benefiting both student and parent/guardian. A talented and committed teaching staff is trained in Family Academy curriculum — a curriculum that has documented success in teaching to an urban student population. A full-time Family Services Worker is an integral part of the school team, acting as child advocate and family/community resource. Future plans include a Health and Family Services Center that will provide information and services to the entire family. State funding is combined with private financial contributions to establish a stimulating educational environment with services and materials usually found only in tuition-driven schools.

<b>Odyssey Community School</b>	Manchester	175	4-8	Elaine Stancliffe, Executive Director Odyssey Community School 579 Middle Turnpike, West Manchester, CT 06040 Tel: (860) 645-1234 Fax: (860) 533-0324 Email: estancliffe@odyssey school.org	Teachers Community Organizations Higher Education Parents
State Charter School Opened in Fall 1997					

Odyssey Community School provides an exemplary education in a community that nurtures the unique mind and heart of each child. Students are taught to think clearly, learn independently, consume information wisely, communicate effectively in a variety of media, and understand the power of technology in society. Holding students accountable to high standards of behavior, families and teachers work together to help them become responsible citizens of strong, compassionate character who know themselves well. Graduates will be eager to continue learning and committed to improving the communities in which they live.

<b>Side by Side Community School</b>	Norwalk/ Regional	235	PreK-8	Matt Nittoly, Director Side by Side Community School 10 Chestnut Street South Norwalk, CT 06854 Tel: (203) 857-0306 Fax: (203) 838-2666 Email: <a href="mailto:m.nittoly@sidebysideschool.org">m.nittoly@sidebysideschool.org</a>	Teachers Higher Education
State Charter School Opened in Fall 1997					

The mission of the Side by Side Community School is to create a multiracial learning environment for urban and suburban children and their families that ensure every child succeeds and every voice is heard. The school addresses all factors that affect achievement. It houses a Family Center using the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School model developed by Edward Ziegler at Yale University. As a Professional Development school, Side by Side is committed to perfecting the art and craft of teaching. Its philosophy of social justice drives its interdisciplinary curriculum. As a training site for interns, it serves as a model for the practice of child-centered, interactive instruction in a diverse setting.

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<b>Stamford Academy</b>  State Charter School Opened in Fall 2004	Stamford	105	9-12	Michael McGuire, Director Stamford Academy 229 North Street Stamford, CT 06091 Tel: (203) 324-6300 Fax: (203) 324-6310 Email: <a href="mailto:mmcquire@stamfordacademy.org">mmcquire@stamfordacademy.org</a>	Parents Teachers Business Leaders Community Activists Higher Ed Institutions

The mission of Stamford Academy is to provide a positive, challenging and responsive learning environment for high school students who have not succeeded in a traditional setting in order to assure that no child shall be denied hope, love or a fair chance in life.

<b>Trailblazers Academy</b>  State Charter School Opened in Fall 1999	Stamford	133	6-8	Craig Baker, Director Trailblazers Academy P.O. Box 15588 Park Square Station Stamford, CT 06901-0360 Tel: (203) 977-5690 Fax: (203) 977-5688 Email: <a href="mailto:cbaker@trailblazersacademy.org">cbaker@trailblazersacademy.org</a>	Community Agency Local School District Local Government
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The mission of Trailblazers Academy is to create a safe, supportive, structured school community which enables students to identify and develop their abilities and interests as they meet high academic standards. A collaborative effort involving the City of Stamford, the Stamford public schools and the Domus Foundation, Trailblazers Academy asks each member of the school community, from parents to students to staff, to bring their gifts and talents to the learning table.